(b) whether there is any such scheme for Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat or Rajkot?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no specific scheme for plantation of trees on either side of Railway lines in cities. Railways have a general policy for doing plantation on vacant land.

(b) No, Sir. However, a small stretch of land admeasuring 1,13,506 Sqm has been given to Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation for plantation.

Lack of toilets due to design of trains

†2095. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the design of some of the trains have been made in such way that toilets have not been provided in them;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that common people are facing much difficulties/incorfvenience due to lack of toilets; and

(c) if so, the justification for not providing such basic facilities in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) By design, MEMU/DEMU/DMU coaches do not have toilets. As a matter of policy, these are meant for journeys up to 160 Kilometres or 4 hours. In case the toilet-less trains are to run for more than 160 Kilometres or a journey time of more than 4 hours, a halt of 30 minutes is provided at an intermediate and suitable station for the convenience of the passengers.

Survey or Kadapa-Bangalore rail line

2096. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the survey of new railway line from Kadapa to Bangalore has been completed;

(b) if so, the details and outcome of the above proposal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the proposals relating to new railway lines in the State of Andhra Pradesh pending with the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken for its clearance by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI.R.VELU):(a)Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the updating survey completed in 2005-06, the cost of the Cuddapah-Bangalore (255.40 Kms.) new rail line project has been assessed as Rs. 693.67 crore with a rate of return of 9%. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to share 50% cost of this project. Final decision on the proposal will be feasible once the survey report is finalized.

(c) and (d) Final clearance for only one proposal, *viz.,* Kakinada-Pithapuram (21.5 Kms.) new rail line is awaited. The Planning Commission has given conditional "in-principle" approval to the proposal. Necessary action has been initiated to obtain requisite clearances.

Electrification of rail tracks

2097. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;

(b) how many proposals for electrification of railway tracks have, so far, been received/recommended in respect of the State of Rajasthan; and

(c) what is the present status of such proposals, till-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Policy for Railway Electrification are as under:

> Electrification projects are considered primarily on economic considerations excepting projects justified as operational necessity. The criterion/guidelines being followed in this regard are as under:
>
> (i) Each electrification project will be justified on Rate of Return, which should exceed 14% with the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method.
>
> (ii) In certain specific cases, electrification will be justified on considerations of operational flexibility.